

April 10, 2014
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF LEO DIANA'S APPOINTMENT AS A
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

My name is Barbara J. Ruhe. I am an attorney in private practice with offices at 915 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT. I have been practicing primarily in the Family and Juvenile Courts for 37 ½ years .I have represented hundreds of children over the years in the Juvenile Court system as both their attorney and/or their Guardian ad Litem (GAL). I occasionally am appointed as a GAL in Family cases and have completed the currently required training. (It was a bit trying to have to attend training run by individuals who had far less practical hands on experience than I have, but that is a conversation for another day.) I serve and have served on a variety of boards and commissions having to do with children's issues within the state, the court system and both the city of Hartford and my home town Wethersfield. I have a recognized expertise relative to children's issues.

While the Governor and I have our differences I was quite pleased that he nominated Leo Diana to be Superior Court judge. I have known Leo professionally all the years he has been a lawyer. I have had cases where he has represented the other side and I have had cases in Family Court where he was the court appointed GAL. I have always found him to be professional, competent, respectful and gracious. We have not always agreed, but we have always been able to maintain a civil discourse. I have never had reason to question his honesty or integrity. I think that Leo has the temperament and patience required to serve the bench well. I believe he has the courage to make tough calls and the experience and wisdom to make good calls.

It is not my practice to submit testimony supporting judicial appointments. I do so only on those rare occasions where I know the appointee well and truly believe they will be an asset to the Court.

I would urge you to approve Leo Diana's appointment as a Judge of the Superior Court.